



Briefing Report No: **117/2009**

Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED GP PRACTICE MERGER – INVITATION TO COMMENT**

Wards Affected: **Preston, Paignton**

To: **Health Scrutiny Board**

On: **11th June 2009**

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1. Key points and Summary

Two practices in the Preston area of Paignton have approached the Trust requesting they should be allowed to merge and form a single practice.

The practices are:

- Drs Green and partners who presently deliver services from the Pembroke House Surgery, with a current list size of 7500 patients.
- Dr Green and partners who presently deliver services from the Upper Manor Road Surgery, with a current list of 1600 patients.

It is proposed that: -

A single contract and practice is created by merging the contracts at Pembroke House and Upper Manor Road into one contract, under a Personal Medical Services agreement.

In the short term, the practice would continue to offer services from both sites. However if the merger proposals are approved, an increasing number of services would be available from Pembroke House Surgery.

In the longer term, anticipated to be spring-summer 2010, the practice would like all services to move to a new surgery on the Concorde House site in Preston where there will be sufficient space to accommodate all staff and develop new services. The site is equi-distant between the two sites (0.3m from each).

Benefits:-

The proposed merger would create a larger and therefore more sustainable practice for the future.

Patients, particularly those currently registered with Upper Manor Road Surgery, will have access to a greater choice of General Practitioners when they want it, including access to female GPs. Patients will still be able to see their GP of choice. Consultations will be available six days a week.

Patients from Upper Manor Road Surgery will have access to additional services, e.g. an extended nursing team including health care assistants, a full range of contraceptive services and in-house rheumatology and ophthalmology services. The merged team are keen to also explore further developments for patient services. An additional full-time GP is being recruited to manage the increased workload of extra patients.

Facilities and accommodation will be improved for Upper Manor Road patients as they will have access to the range of Pembroke House facilities.

By retaining Upper Manor Road staff, patients can be reassured by seeing a familiar face at the surgery.

There are financial implications for the Care Trust although these are modest. The PMS contract price per patient is slightly higher than the GMS price per patient at Upper Manor Road. There will be the cost of an integrated clinical computing system too; however, IT investment was planned for Upper Manor Road Surgery in 2009 and the merged system costs can be offset against this.

2. Introduction

Torbay Care Trust are responsible for commissioning General Practice services across Torbay for ensuring that accessible, high quality primary care services are delivered to all registered patients.

We are currently consulting on the proposal with the following parties:

- The Local Medical Committee
- The Local Pharmaceutical Committee
- Torbay Care Trust provider arm
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Local councillor(s)
- Torbay LINK
- Patients of both surgeries – this will be undertaken by placing this notice on the practice website inviting comments, waiting room posters at each site and consultation meetings with the patient groups of each surgery respectively.

The attached document will form the basis of the consultation with all interested parties.

The Care Trust will collate and consider all comments received from this consultation and a documented summary of the comments made will be reported to the Trust Board, together with an impact assessment of the merger and the practice proposal. All those that ask to be kept informed of the outcome will be written to following the Trust board meeting on 15th July 2009.

The consultation runs for 45 days from 20th May to 3rd July and views can be submitted using the form at the end of the consultation document which can be handed in at either surgery or e-mailed/faxed/sent to the Care Trust. The response form asks for views on:

- The proposed merger of the two surgeries
- Services being available to patients from both surgeries
- The distance between the two sites
- Services that should be available at the proposed new site at Concord House (wef 2010)
- General comments/suggestions

Name of Head of Business Unit: Christine Branson

Title of Head of Business Unit: Primary Care Contracting, Commissioning, TCT

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cover letter and consultation document

Documents available in members' rooms

None

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

Appendix 1